

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Anthony J. Billittier IV, M.D., FACEP Commissioner of Health

Dear Provider,

Erie County Health Department has proclaimed June as "Teen Immunization Awareness Month".

We recognize how important it is for adolescents to be immunized against deadly disease. Our community needs to remember that children who are under immunized can become victims to diseases that many think no longer exist. Vaccinations do not stop at childhood- they should be considered throughout one's life. There are many diseases we are able to prevent today that we were unable to even 10 years ago. New immunizations provide protection for adolescents and teens, yet immunization rates in the United States remain far below national goals.

Immunizations have been proven to provide important benefits to adolescents and teens, especially as they grow into adults. Increasing vaccination rates can reduce vaccine preventable diseases and limit the spread of infection to infants, children, adolescents and the elderly in our community. Protection for one means protection for all.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the following immunizations for adolescents and teens:

- Hepatitis A vaccine to protect against Hepatitis A (Two doses recommended)
- Hepatitis B vaccine to protect against Hepatitis B (Three doses recommended)
- MCV4 (meningitis) to protect against Meningitis
- Tdap to protect against Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis
- HPV to protect against Human Papilloma Virus
- Varicella to protect against chickenpox (Two doses recommended)

We are asking you to please join our initiative and prepare for this event by reaching out to your patients and educating them about the importance of adolescent and teen immunizations.

If you have any immunization questions please call the Erie County Health Department Immunization Action Plan Program at 961-6839.

Erie County Department of Health Immunization Action Plan Program

PUBLIC HEALTH: PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.